

Amendments to the Specification

On page 5, at line 14, insert the heading –Brief Description of the Drawings–.

On page 5, at line 27, insert the heading –Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments–.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 15 with the following amended paragraph:

The exhaust gas purification system shown in Fig. 2 largely agrees with the exhaust gas purification system of Fig. 1. The main difference is that here the catalyst body 6 is in communication with the tubular section 12 of the inlet funnel 4 via a separate intermediate pipe piece 25. The intermediate pipe piece 25, which is formed as an intermediate funnel due to the flaring of its diameter in the direction of exhaust gas flow I, engages with its ~~downstream~~ upstream end into the protruding section 15 of the jacket 10 and contacts this from the inside. The welded joint 26 between the jacket 10 of the catalyst body 6 and the intermediate pipe piece 25 can thereby be provided on the outside of the jacket 10 and the intermediate pipe piece 25 so that the matrix 8 is protected against weld splashing during the making of the welded joint 26.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 22 with the following amended paragraph:

The downstream end of the intermediate pipe piece ~~15-25~~ 25 contacts the tubular section 12 of the inlet funnel 4 from the inside, but protrudes over its downstream end. A welded joint 27 can thereby also be made from the outside between the intermediate pipe piece 25 and the tubular section 12 of the inlet funnel 4. The protruding section 28 of the intermediate pipe piece 25 now engages to fit into the protruding section 21 of the jacket 11 of the second catalyst body 7 and is tightly connected thereto via a welded joint 22. In all other respects, the two exhaust gas purification systems are in agreement with one another.